

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

BY

J. B. BRAMWELL, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE

Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon

Rural District of Stratford-on-Avon

Rural District of Alcester

Rural District of Shipston-on-Stour

FOR THE YEAR 1951

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

1951

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon.

The Chairman and Councillors, Rural District of Stratford-on-Avon.

The Chairman and Councillors, Rural District of Alcester.

The Chairman and Councillors, Rural District of Shipston-on-Stour.

I again present my report on similar lines to that of last year, and comment on several items common to all four districts. Some of my observations are based on recent Ministry Circulars and current events, but, I feel, they apply to the general survey of public health in my area.

HOUSING

In spite of delays and frustrations, each of my Councils is making good progress in the building of new Council houses. The families who are being re-housed in these houses, are, very often, those who have never had a house of their own during their

married life. The waiting lists for Council houses continue to increase, and there is very little prospect, I am afraid, of taking action to repair or demolish sub-standard houses, which, in a few years' time, will give all Councils considerable trouble. I hope the Government will take steps to ease the financial lot of owners of houses, who, at the present moment, can do little about putting their property into a reasonable state of repair, because of the lack of financial return for the money they spend.

Much publicity, in recent months, has been given to the unavoidable increase in the rent of new Council houses, rendered necessary by the increase in the cost of buildings. I do not think that Council house tenants realise how lucky they are to have a modern house for a sum which, if the rate portion is deducted from their total weekly rent, is so comparatively small.

From my experience in my work as Area Medical Officer for the County Council, I notice that considerable sums go into every household in the country each week, and I consider that too much of the family income appears to be spent on luxuries and frills, rather than providing a good roof for the family. There are many husbands who keep far too much of their earnings for themselves. I still believe that the present rents of Council houses, although large in comparison with pre-war rents, are quite within the capacity of most Council house tenants, if only they would try to organise their family budgets.

WATER SUPPLIES

There has been some progress during the past year towards the time when a comprehensive scheme of piped water will be available in all four districts.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I have just read a circular from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the subject of economies in local government services, as applied, among other things, to sewage disposal. I notice that all schemes for sewage disposal in villages must now be supported by a report from the Medical Officer of Health that the lack of a sewage disposal scheme in that village is a danger to the public health.

It seems hard that a rural district, whose population has lacked the modern conveniences that the town dweller has had for so many years, should now, probably, be deprived of a proper

system of sewage disposal. Once the comprehensive water schemes are in being, I foresee tremendous difficulties in each of my three Rural Districts in coping with the sewage problems which will result.

When towns put in their sewage disposal schemes, the need for them was considered to be so obvious that scientific proof of the danger to public health of lack of sanitation was not considered necessary. A little while ago it was considered essential to have sewage disposal schemes where there were new water supplies, since water supply and sewage disposal are two fundamentals of public health which have always gone hand in hand. I am not so sure myself whether it will be so easy to prove scientifically and to the satisfaction of the Ministry, that sewage disposal schemes are essential. The amount of time and trouble that will be taken up to provide factual evidence of the danger to public health through using an open ditch to receive effluent of all kinds from houses, will be great.

FOOD HYGIENE

If the lack of notification of cases of food poisoning is an indication of the practice of hygienic methods in food handling in these districts, there would seem to be little need for health education in the shops, cafés, and restaurants locally. Most of the premises where handling of food is carried out are now in a reasonable state for the purpose. There is still, however, need for the whole-hearted co-operation of every individual who handles food. The results of preventative medicine are no more spectacular, when viewed over a short period, in relation to food hygiene, than they are in relation to any other aspect of preventative medicine. We are hoping, in the Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon, to start a branch of the Food Hygiene Guild of immediate concern to employees of food establishments. I hope that employees will take this up with enthusiasm, and continue the good work which the managers and owners of the shops have started, by becoming members of the Guild.

I hope that the following incident which I came across recently is not typical of the working methods of assistants in any of the shops in my district:

A housewife went into a shop to purchase some cakes, and, while waiting her turn, someone called the assistant to go and have a cup of tea. She replied: "Just a minute. I must wash my hands ; they're filthy ! "

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of cases of tuberculosis appear to be on the increase. This increase is due to increased efforts on the part of the Public Health Service to check up on the contacts of known sufferers from tuberculosis. The increase in notifications, as such, is not a matter to be particularly concerned about, since the facilities for treatment of tuberculosis, from a sanatorium point of view and from a therapeutic point of view, are so very much better than they were a year ago. The increase in the numbers of early cases of tuberculosis found and treated, is a very much better figure to have than an increase in the number of chronic cases, for whom there is little prospect of a permanent cure.

MEAT INSPECTION

The work in the excellent new slaughter-house in Stratford-upon-Avon is increasing. Slaughtering facilities are provided for a wide area, with a population of around 100,000, at this slaughter-house. In consequence, more time has to be spent by the Sanitary Inspectors' Department in the inspection of animals killed at the slaughter-house.

It is a responsibility of a Council to inspect all meat slaughtered within its boundary, but I do not think that it was ever envisaged that a small town like Stratford-upon-Avon should have to provide meat inspection for such a wide area. The time is coming when meat inspection can only be done adequately in the Borough at the expense of ordinary sanitary inspection, unless more sanitary inspecting staff is appointed.

Representations are being made by the Council in various quarters to find a remedy for this state of affairs. Since the Ministry of Food, in effect, does all the handling from the live beast to the butcher's shop, it would seem that the Government should take over financial responsibility for adequate meat inspection.

I consider, however, that inspection of meat should remain a responsibility of the Public Health Department, even if financial assistance is given from elsewhere.

STAFF

It would have been quite impossible to write this report without the very considerable help of the staff of the District Councils. My work with them during the year, has been done in complete

harmony. They are all very busy people, but do not seem to have taken umbrage at any suggestions I have made in increasing the amount of work for them to do.

I am also grateful to my office staff for their help and hard work during the year.

It has been most pleasant as well to work for the various Councils, of whose staff I am a member.

J. B. BRAMWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Chief Sanitary Inspector

J. H. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

Certificate Meat and Foods

Additional Sanitary Inspector

W. D. H. KEAR, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Certificate Meat and Foods

Population (estimated)	14,700
Rateable Value	£140,573
Product of Penny Rate	£567

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION 14,700

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	125	130	255
Illegitimate	5	2	7

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.8 (15.5).

STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.47 (0.36).

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
	81	93	174

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.8 (12.5).

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal sepsis ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	—	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

Congenital defect ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary atelectasis ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Homicide ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Figures in parentheses are corresponding figures for England and Wales,

CAUSES OF DEATH

						M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lungs, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, other organs	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	11	18
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	18	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	15
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	7
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach, Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Nephritis, Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Other Defined and ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Homicide, Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	0	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 and over	Age unkn.	TOTAL	Ad. to Hosp.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	4	6	—	—	14	—
Whooping Cough	14	27	30	33	1	1	—	107	—
Measles	7	55	67	107	2	4	1	—	243
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	—	—	15	4	21
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	7
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS IN DISTRICT

Number of cases on Register at 1/1/51 ...

Number of cases on Register at 31/12/51 ...

Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
18	14	7	2
19	15	7	3

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul.		Non.-Pul.		Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1								
1-5								
5-10								
10-15	1							
15-20								
20-25		2						
25-35	2							
35-45	1					1		
45-55	1	1			1			
55-65	1	1				2		
65 and upwards						1	1	
Age unknown								
TOTAL	6	4			1	4	1	

HOUSING

Total houses built under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	723
Council houses built since the war to 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	297
Council houses in course of erection	...	...	...	...	46
Other properties under control of the Council	...	...	...	...	83
Applicants on the housing list	...	...	...	...	500

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Premises (Public Health Act)	...	...	...	...	158
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	852
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	563
Milk purveyors	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	35
Factories P.	...	...	...	...	25
Factories N.P.	...	...	...	...	11
Hotel and restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	43
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	69
Fish premises (fryers)	...	...	...	...	17
Food premises	...	...	...	...	36
Markets and shops	...	...	...	...	356
Shops (Shops Act)	...	...	...	...	5
New buildings	...	...	...	...	500
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	94
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	8
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	61
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	143
Camps visited	...	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	30
TOTAL INSPECTIONS MADE	...	...	...	...	3050

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED:

A. Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
B. Informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	145

RESULT OF NOTICES SERVED:

A. Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
B. Number of notices not complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

DEFECTS FOUND:

Drains obstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privy closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Foul W.C. basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Defective R.W.P.s and G.s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rooms which require cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Nuisance from animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowded house	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
TOTAL DEFECTS FOUND	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS MADE

Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Drains re-layed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
New drain traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. basins cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C. cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New W.C. pedestals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New W.C. provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
W.W.C.s converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privy closets dispensed with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
R.W.P.s and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Town water supply laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Miscellaneous improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
 TOTAL IMPROVEMENTS MADE	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	243

DRAINAGE AND CLOSETS

The systems of 20 houses have been re-layed or repaired, and obstructed drains at 42 houses have been cleared.

Seven new drain traps have been fitted.

Slop closets at two houses have been converted to flush closets.

Two privy closets have been replaced with flush closets.

There are 31 properties, nearly all farm cottages, still without proper water closets in the Borough.

WATER SUPPLY

Three houses which drew their water supply from a standpipe were provided with internal water supply and sanitary sinks.

MILK AND DAIRIES

With the exception of a small quantity of milk sold by a local Producer - Retailer, all the milk retailed in the Borough is bottled.

Approximately 340 gallons of Tubercular Tested milk is retailed in the Borough daily by Mr. Clyde Higgs, of Hatton Rock.

The Stratford Dairy, New Street, has continued to operate during the year, and their premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The dairy has an output of 3,200 gallons, of which approximately 35 per cent. is T.T., and the remainder is ordinary pasteurised milk.

Ninety per cent. of this output is bottled, and the remaining 10 per cent. goes to hospitals and cafés in bulk form.

During the year a new bottle-washing machine has been installed, and the dairy has gone over to metal-capped bottles. Previously pasteurised milk was bottled in cardboard-disc bottles.

There are nine registered retailers of milk in the Borough, and three reside outside the Borough.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT,
1950

SECTION 8

TUBERCULOUS MILK INVESTIGATIONS—ROUTINE MILK SAMPLES FOR
BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised milk	4	Nil
“Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ” milk	—	—
“Tuberculin Tested ” milk	—	—
“Accredited ” and non-graded milk	1	Nil

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

MEAT INSPECTION

The new slaughter-house at the rear of No. 6, Chapel Street, was completed and came into full operation on the 6th August, 1951. It is very modern, and is built on the continuous system, equipped with the latest devices. Together with the fairly modern slaughter-house at the rear of No. 14, Bridge Street, it affords excellent slaughtering facilities. The transport of home-killed meat from the Borough to the Districts is carried out in modern vehicles, and only offal, in properly-stowed galvanised containers, is allowed on the floor of any vehicle. Handling of the meat at the slaughter-house is carried out by personnel wearing washable overalls and headgear, drivers of the vehicles are also issued with similar clean clothing twice weekly. The Districts supplied with meat from the two slaughter-houses are: The Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon, the Borough of Evesham, Rural Districts of Stratford-on-Avon, Evesham, Shipston-on-Stour, Moreton-in-Marsh and Pershore. A total population of 90,000. Some meat is also exported outside of these districts during the peak slaughtering period.

The number of animals slaughtered and meat condemned is given in the following tables:

Total number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 19,571.

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2864	1457	1080	11293	2877
Number inspected ...	2864	1457	1080	11293	2877
Whole carcases condemned for T.B.	8	26	2	<i>Nil</i>	4
Part carcases condemned for T.B.	119	385	1	<i>Nil</i>	42
Whole carcases condemned for O.C.	10	14	9	75	51
Part carcases condemned for O.C.	342	628	15	842	115
% of whole carcases condemned for T.B. ...	·28%	1·8%	·18%	<i>Nil</i>	·14%
% of part carcases condemned for T.B. ...	4·16%	26·4%	·09%	<i>Nil</i>	1·4%
% of whole carcases condemned for O.C. ...	·35%	·96%	·83%	·66%	1·8%
% of part carcases condemned for O.C. ...	11·9%	43·1%	1·38%	7·4%	3·9%

The following table gives the weight of meat and offal condemned and the cause of its unfitness:

Disease

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Tuberculosis	14	3	2	1
Oedema and emaciation	3	30	1	27
Fevered	2	11	3	19
Cirrhosis	5	3	—	29
Parasites	1	9	—	13
Abscesses	—	17	—	—
Bruised	—	16	2	24
Angioma	—	4	2	14
Gangrene	—	2	—	2
Pyæmia	—	2	1	25
Jaundice	—	2	2	4
Actinomycosis	—	3	2	18
Pneumonia & Inflammation ...	—	10	3	—
Septicæmia	—	6	2	5
Carcinoma	—	8	—	—
Fatty infiltration	—	2	1	5
Black leg	—	2	—	25
Johnes disease	—	1	1	3
Cysticercus bovis	—	—	—	20

Total weight of meat and offal condemned: 31 tons 18 cwts. 1 qr. 11 lbs.

FOOD INSPECTION

392 visits of inspection have been made to Markets, Retail Shops and other Food Stores, and the following foods were condemned:

1,115 tins, jars and bottles assorted foods.
124½ lbs. bacon and ham.
38 lbs. sausage and black pudding.
28 lbs. cheese.
3 lbs. macaroni.
122 lbs. cake.
2 cwt. sugar
50 boxes apples.
132 lbs. assorted fish.
5 doz. faggots.
406 hen eggs.
22 lbs. frozen eggs.
13 pkts. cake flour.
5 fowls.
6 rabbits.

FOOD POISONING

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year and affected one person. The offending article of food was sardines, and a growth of *staphylococcus aureus* was produced from the remains of the tin. Notification was unfortunately too late to cross-link this growth of the sardines with a specimen from the patient concerned.

FISH FRIERS

There are only three fish friers in the Borough, and 17 visits of inspection have been made to them.

All three premises are fitted with modern stoves and equipment, and have been maintained in a very satisfactory condition during the year.

ICE-CREAM PREMISES

Five premises were registered for the manufacture of ice-cream by heat treatment, and five are registered for the manufacture by cold mix process.

Thirty-three premises are registered for the storage and sale of bulk ice-cream, and 18 for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

Sixty visits of inspection were made to registered premises, and 35 samples have been collected and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

27 samples came within Grade 1.
2 samples came within Grade 2.
4 samples came within Grade 3.
2 samples came within Grade 4.

Eight samples of ice-cream were taken from retailers in the Borough by the County Sampling Officer and submitted for chemical analysis, the fat content was found to vary between 5.4 per cent. and 14.2 per cent.

BAKEHOUSES AND RESTAURANT KITCHENS

There are 13 bakehouses and 14 restaurant kitchens in the Borough; one bakery has been closed during the year and one new one registered.

Twenty-eight visits of inspection have been made to these premises during the year.

Five written Notices and one verbal Notice have been made to the occupiers—three for cleansing and three for other sanitary defects. All were complied with.

HYGIENE IN FOOD PREMISES

The Food Traders' Hygiene Guild has made steady progress during the year, and 13 new members have been enrolled, included in these are Caterers 5, Grocery and Provisions 2, Fishmonger 1, Butchers 4, Dairies 1.

The total membership of the Guild on 31st December, 1951, was 35. Hoteliers and Caterers 18, Grocers and Provision Merchants 5, Fishmongers 3, Butchers 7, Dairies 1, Bakers and Confectioners 1.

Periodic visits of inspection are made to these premises, and members generally are complying with the Code of Practice appertaining to their trade.

In conjunction with a N.A.L.G.O. Exhibition, held in the Wood Street Hall, from the 7th to 9th March, 1951, the Guild gave an exhibition of sound films, all the members of the Guild were notified and requested to ask their employees to visit the exhibition and to see the film show.

The films shown were: "Another Case of Food Poisoning," "A Fly about the House," "The Good Housewife in her Kitchen," and "Rat Destruction." These films were seen by over 1,000 people.

The Advisory Committee are now considering the formation of an employees section of the Guild.

CAMPING SITES

There are four licensed camping sites in the Borough, all situated on river meadows, but no caravan or tent is permitted within 60 yards of the river bank.

The four camping sites are:

1. Corporation Camping Site, Warwick Road (licensed for 98 caravans or tents).
2. Rayford Camp, Tiddington Road (licensed for 112 caravans or tents).
3. Oxstalls Farm Camp, Warwick Road (licensed for 56 caravans or tents).
4. The Elms Camp, Tiddington Road (licensed for 56 caravans or tents).

All the camping sites are liable to flooding from the river, and are, therefore, only open from April to October of each year, except for a small number of semi-permanent caravans at the Elms Camp, which are on land above flood level.

Each camp is provided with a town water supply, water closets, washing facilities, drainage and sanitary dustbins.

The drainage from the Corporation Camp is connected to the public sewer, and from the other three camps into cesspools, which are emptied by the Council on payment.

Refuse is collected, and disposed of, regularly by each of the camp owners.

Catering facilities are provided in a small way in the pavilion on the site, by the owner of Rayford Camp.

This year the Council have a contract with the owner of a mobile canteen for providing light refreshment on their camp, and this has filled a very urgent need for the campers.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other including business and Industrial	TOTAL
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	9	4142	25	711	4887
No. of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result of: ...					
(a) notification	(a) -	55	2	37	94
or (b) otherwise ...	(b) 5	72	-	15	92
No. of properties found to be infested by rats	Major -	-	1	-	1
	Minor 2	55	1	37	95
No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ...	-	-	-	-	-
No. of properties treated by the Local Authority	2	55	1	37	95
No. of Notices served under Section 4: Treatment (1) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Structural Works (2) (i.e. Proofing) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	18	4379	30	837	5263

WATER SUPPLIES

(1) During the year ended December, 1951, the water supplies for domestic and industrial purposes have been satisfactory as regards both quality and quantity.

(2) Quarterly bacteriological analyses have been made, and these have, on all occasions, indicated that the water supply in the Borough is of a high standard of purity. The water is free from any tendency to plumbosolvent action, and the total hardness is on the average 8 parts per 100,000.

(3) There are still eight properties within the Borough with no water supply; six of these are riverside bungalows, and two are farm cottages. Two further farm cottages have only a well supply.

Thirty-seven houses in the Borough still have only a standpipe supply, which averages at one standpipe to 3.7 houses. All this property is of a

low standard, and will be cleared in due course. Twenty-eight houses have no tap inside the house. Water is obtained from a shared tap in the washhouse. These houses are of a poor standard also.

GENERALLY:

The water supplies of the town are pumped from artesian boreholes at four sites, viz.: Warwick Road, August Hill, Alveston Hill and Alcester Road. In addition a supplementary supply is available from an upland gathering ground and a storage reservoir at Snitterfield. The last-mentioned supply is drawn upon during period of peak demand during the summer months. Here the method of purification is by prolonged storage in the reservoir, which has a capacity of 20,000,000 gallons, followed by treatment through slow sand filters and chlorination of the filtrate.

Chlorination in connection with the artesian well supplies has been continued during the past year, as has, of course, the chlorination of the filtrate at Snitterfield.

Bulk supplies are afforded to the Rural District of Stratford-on-Avon for distribution to the parishes of Clifford Chambers and Luddington. In addition a bulk supply is being afforded to the Rural District for the parishes of Snitterfield, Bearley, Pathlow, Bishopton and Alderminster (there is an extension from this supply to the village of Newbold-on-Stour in the Shipston Rural District). This agreement is of a temporary nature, pending the completion of the Rural District Council's comprehensive water scheme for the district. In connection therewith the temporary agreement also provided for the Rural District Council of Stratford-on-Avon to extend this supply to an adjoining parish of Wilmcote, situated in the area of the Alcester Rural District Council. This has now been completed.

EXTENSIONS DURING THE YEAR:

A new borehole has been constructed at Welcombe Fields, near the entrance to the Welcombe Hotel, in the Warwick Road. Work was commenced in November, 1950, and the borehole was tested for yield in May, 1951. The yield proved to be of the order of 8 to 10 thousand gallons per hour, and arrangements are now in hand to pump this available quantity of water to the nearby Warwick Road pumping station, in order to augment supplies there.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

Rather less trouble has been experienced during the year at the Sewage Disposal Works than was suggested in my Report last year. The need still remains, however, for a complete renewing and enlarging of the works, to cope with the increased load on them and bring them up to modern standards.

Consulting Engineers have been asked to produce a scheme of re-organisation and renewal. This preparation will take some time and, even then, difficulty will be experienced in persuading the Ministry to provide the necessary money for re-building.

Stratford-upon-Avon is only a small town, but a very large part of its water supply is used for trade purposes. Of the million gallons a day supplied to consumers almost half is used for trade purposes. The trade effluent produced by this consumption is one which causes considerable difficulty in treatment. The time may have to come when consideration should be given to preventing the discharge of trade effluent into sewers without prior treatment.

A certain amount of temporary re-organisation will be put in hand in the coming year to make the Sewage Disposal Works more efficient. If the sewage received by the works consisted only of domestic sewage, difficulties of treatment would not be nearly so great.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 AND 1948

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1951 FOR THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTION for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. of Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occu- piers prosecu- ted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	16	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
(ii) Factories in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	131	55	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority excluding outworkers premises	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
TOTAL	148	71	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness S.1	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding S.2	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature S.3... ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation S.4	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—	...	...	—	—
(a) insufficient	...	...	—	—
(b) unsuitable	...	...	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes	...	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act... ...	4	4	—	—
TOTAL	7	7	—	—

RURAL DISTRICT
of
STRATFORD-ON-AVON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Chief Sanitary Inspector

H. J. WEEKS, M.R.san.I., F.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector

J. WOOD, A.I.A.S., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.san.I.

Certificate Meat and Foods

Sanitary Inspector

H. W. PASSMORE, A.R.san.I., M.S.I.A.

Certificate Meat and Foods

Population (estimated)	20,390
Rateable Value	£101,960
Product of Penny Rate	£402

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION 20,390

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	188	151	339
Illegitimate	8	10	18

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.5 (15.5).

STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.15 (0.36).

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
	129	106	235

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.5 (12.5).

DEATHS FROM PUEPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal sepsis ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	2	11
Illegitimate	—	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Asphyxia neonatorum ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Atelectasis ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmorrhagic pneumonia ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kernicterus Erythroblastosis ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miliary tuberculosis ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastric hæmorrhage ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Figures in parentheses are corresponding figures for England and Wales.

CAUSE OF DEATH

						M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lungs, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, other Organs	...	...	...	...	...	19	8
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	11	18
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	16	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	19	17
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Ulcer of Stomach, Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Nephritis, Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	15	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	7	0
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Homicide, Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	0	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS	...	...	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 and over	Age unkn.	TOTAL	Ad. to Hosp.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	10	7	—
Whooping Cough	...	3	8	6	9	1	—	—	—	—	27	—	—
Measles	...	...	10	40	64	114	15	5	5	—	253	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	4	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS IN DISTRICT

Number of cases on Register at 1/1/51 ...
 Number of cases on Register at 31/12/51 ...

Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
36	20	9	2
39	19	9	2

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul.		Non.-Pul.		Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1			1		1			
1-5								
5-10								
10-15								
15-20								
20-25		1				1		
25-35	5	1				1		
35-45	3	1				1		
45-55	5						1	
55-65	2					2		
65 and upwards								
Age unknown								
TOTAL	16	3	1		6	1		

HOUSING

Total No. Council houses	...	...	...	...	718
Total No. Council houses built since the war	...	...	...	...	281
Total No. Council houses under construction at 31/12/51	...	...	...	...	89
Total No. private houses built since the war	...	...	...	...	103
Total No. families accommodated in ex-W.D. huts	...	...	...	...	306
Total No. applicants for Council houses now on the list	...	...	...	...	1056

HOUSING ACTS

By far the majority of the houses in the district are very old, period houses which would require major structural alteration and repair if they were brought up to the modern standard of fitness. Regard must be had to the historical interest and value of many of these houses, and the Council are reluctant to make demolition orders wherever there are prospects of the properties being made reasonably habitable, particularly if they are likely to be structurally sound for years to come. Re-housing of the displaced occupiers in or near the parishes where houses are demolished presents a major problem at the present time.

Four houses have been represented under Section 11, Housing Act for Human Habitation, 1936, and in three cases the Council accepted undertakings not to use—one owner carried out the necessary work to make a vacant house structurally safe. Action under Section 9 of the Act is impracticable in most cases. Four applications for Improvement Grants under the 1949 Housing Act were received during the year, and each was rejected either by the Ministry or the Council before submission to the Ministry.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Routine visits have been paid to 59 premises where food of all sorts is stored, handled or sold. This figure excludes 19 visits for the sampling of ice-cream for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	9
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	6
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	3
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	1

In addition neighbouring Authorities notified the results of examination of samples of ice-cream manufactured in this district as follows:

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	7
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	1

Improvements in washing facilities have been effected in seven food premises (three public-houses, one fried-fish shop, one café, two grocery and provision shops) and additional or improved sanitary accommodation has been provided in two public-houses. Other improvements have been effected in four establishments (repairs to walls, ceilings and doors).

Most cafés and snack bars displaying cakes, etc., for sale have provided covers or show cases of glass or other suitable materials.

Periodical checks on bakers' vans and roundsmen have been made.

FOOD INSPECTION

Inspection of all meat consumed within the district is carried out at the two slaughter-houses within Stratford-upon-Avon Borough. Examination of small quantities of canned foodstuffs has been carried out, and the necessary condemnation certificates issued.

The Chief Sampling Officer of the Warwickshire County Council has reported as follows on 47 samples of various foods which were procured within the District and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst. This number is made up as follows:

Milk samples	...	...	...	37
Ice-cream	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	9

The above samples proved to be satisfactory, with the exception of eight milk samples. The latter involved one producer only who was supplying milk to a dairy, the eight samples being from different churns. Each of the churns was found to contain a small amount of added water, but the degree of adulteration did not exceed two per cent., and the matter was dealt with by way of caution. Subsequent samples from the producer concerned have proved to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950

TUBERCULOUS MILK INVESTIGATIONS—ROUTINE MILK SAMPLES FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised milk	...	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk	4	—
Tuberculin Tested milk	...	3
Accredited and non-graded milk	59	3

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OF TUBERCLE-INFECTED MILK SUPPLIES DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Cases found on routine sampling	Cases reported by neighbouring in the County	County Authorities
No. of investigations	...	3	3
No. of cows examined	...	56	81
No. of milk samples for diagnostic purposes	...	17	17
No. of cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order	...	2	5
No. of cows removed from herds during investigations which may have been infected	...	1	—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

(a) No. of informal notices and letters	...	...	...	...	41
These included the clearing of choked drains, repair of leaking drains, repair of sanitary conveniences and the provision of more suitable sanitary accommodation in two public-houses.					
(b) Statutory Notices served:					
Sec. 39.—Drainage in existing buildings	...	...	...	...	2
Sec. 45.—Defective closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
Sec. 47.—Conversion of pail closets to water closets	...	...	...	...	1
(This notice required substitution of pail closets at six houses owned by one person).					
Sec 50.—Overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	...	5

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

No. of informal notices and letters	.....	...	...	...	114
No. of statutory notices served Sec. 93	...	...	...	...	14

(Leaking roofs and disrepair 11, nuisances from keeping animals one, choked ditches two.)

REFUSE AND NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION

No. of informal notices and letters	...	...	...	...	23
No. of formal notices, Sec. 75, provision of dustbins	...	...	...	...	2

The Council operates a service for the collection of refuse from all reasonably accessible houses in the District. In the larger, more thickly populated areas of Henley-in-Arden, Wootton Wawen, Tanworth-in-Arden, Wellesbourne and Kineton, collection of refuse is made weekly; fortnightly in Snitterfield and Welford-on-Avon (with Weston-on-Avon); and usually monthly in the remaining more thinly populated parishes.

Night soil is collected weekly from 765 houses in the parishes of Wellesbourne (with Walton), Wootton Wawen (three wards), Tanworth-in-Arden and Snitterfield.

Three cesspool-emptying vehicles are operated.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There are four sites licensed for the stationing of caravans used for human habitation:

Hillcrest, The Portway	...	...	72
Wootton Hall, Wootton Wawen	...	25 vans per acre on the land approved	
Dodwell, Luddington	...	...	40
The Mill, Welford-on-Avon	...	12 (licensed until December 31st, 1952).	

The Council are opposed to the licensing of individual caravans, and the policy is, with certain exceptions, to licence only those caravans used by the owner/occupiers, and stationed on the ground where preliminary planning approval has been given for the eventual erection of dwelling-houses by genuine applicants for building licences.

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION OF VERMIN

One full-time rodent operator is employed, and during the year routine treatment of all refuse tips and sewage disposal works has been carried out quarterly, together with six-monthly test baiting, and treatment as necessary, of all sewers both public and private, draining Council housing sites.

Treatment of all business and private premises has been carried out where the occupiers have requested the Council operator's services.

Three statutory notices, requiring proofing of premises, were served under Sec. 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Eight infestations, found by survey of agricultural land, were reported to the County Agricultural Executive Committee, where occupiers had no contract with the Committee for the destruction of rats and mice on their premises.

WATER SUPPLY

No. of informal notices and letters sent concerning water supplies to houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
No. of statutory notices served, Sec. 138	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

During the year 134 properties have been connected to mains supplies (excluding Council houses).

There has been no shortage of water, and the samples sent for bacteriological examination have revealed that the water is of a high standard of purity. In all cases, except two, water is purchased in bulk from neighbouring authorities pending the completion of the comprehensive scheme to cover the whole district. In this connection two boreholes have been completed at Thelthorpe for the supply of the southern area of the district, and it is hoped that work will start in mid-1952 on a borehole at Heath End, Snitterfield, to supply the northern area.

The main water from Grafton reservoir has been extended through the village of Binton.

Samples for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were taken during seven-day yield tests from new boreholes to supply new Council houses at Wolverton and Hampton Lucy.

Eighty-two first and repeat samples from wells have been taken for bacteriological examination, and in 11 cases heavy pollution (eight by sewage from overflowing cesspools, earth closets and drains) have been traced and remedied.

Four samples for chemical analysis were taken at the request of owners or occupiers.

The water throughout the district is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

DETAILS OF PUBLIC MAINS WATER SUPPLY TO HOUSES

Parish	Total	No. houses in parish	No. with mains supply direct to houses	No. of houses supplied from standpipes
Admington	...	33	17	16
Aldermanster	...	141	87	—
Bearley	...	57	56	—
Beaudesert	...	69	51	—
Billesley	...	16	8	—
Binton	...	79	19	—
Claverdon	...	236	111	—
Clifford Chambers	...	110	76	—
Combrook & Compton Verney	...	47	29	12
Dorsington	...	35	18	8
Grafton	...	120	61	—
Fulbroke & Hampton Lucy	...	149	6	—
Kineton	...	349	321	—
Loxley	...	79	42	23
Luddington & Milcote	...	80	24	13
Marston Sicca	...	96	68	3
Old Stratford and Drayton	...	133	64	—
Preston Bagot	...	48	7	—
Preston-on-Stour	...	77	4	—
Quinton	...	129	80	29
Snitterfield	...	233	103	6
Tanworth	...	656	275	—
Whitchurch	...	46	6	—
Wootton Wawen—				
Wootton Ward	...	252	191	—
Ullenhall Ward	...	103	93	—
Henley-in-Arden Ward	...	442	381	—

The following parishes have no public mains supply: Atherstone (18 houses), Charlecote (52 houses), Ettington (161 houses), Langley (43 houses), Moreton Morrell (117 houses), Newbold Pacey and Ashorne (97 houses), Welford-on-Avon (259 houses), Wellesbourne Hastings and Walton (261 houses), Wellesbourne Mountford (160 houses), Weston-on-Avon (33 houses), Wolverton (50 houses).

Public mains touch only the fringe of the parishes of Fulbroke, Hampton Lucy, Preston Bagot, Preston-on-Stour and Whitchurch, as shown on the above table.

Council houses, mainly post-war, have water laid on from wells or boreholes as follows: Ettington (20), Welford-on-Avon (21), Wellesbourne Hastings (42).

Wholesome water is laid on either in the huts or in wash-houses on the following ex-R.A.F. Camp Sites: Bearley (99 huts), Wellesbourne (36), Atherstone (78).

Structural modification and repairs are in hand at an ex-P.O.W. Camp at Ettington Park, where accommodation is to be provided for 78 families (47 dwellings are at present occupied). Each hut has water laid on from a private supply.

SEWERAGE

No new sewage disposal works have been constructed during the year. All new Council houses completed have been drained to existing main sewers. Enlargement of the disposal works at Kineton has been commenced, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed early in 1952.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occu- piers prosecu- ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	5	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	17	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	33	22	3	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:—					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	—	—

THE RURAL DISTRICT of ALCESTER

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Sanitary Inspector

G. V. BLACKBROUGH, A.R.san.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Surveyor

I. C. WILLIAMS, A.I.A.S., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

Population (estimated)	13,360
Rateable Value	£54,540
Product of Penny Rate	£208

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION 13,260

LIVE BIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	116	97	213
Illegitimate	...	2	3	5

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 16.4 (15.5).

STILLBIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	2	—	2

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.53 (0.36).

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
	71	62	133

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.0 (12.5).

DEATHS FROM PUPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	—	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital defect	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Figures in parentheses are corresponding figures for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH

						M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lungs, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, other Organs	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	6	11
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	16
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Ulcer of Stomach, Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Nephritis, Nephroses	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other Defined and ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Homicide, Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	0	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS	...	...	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 and over	Age unkn.	TOTAL	Ad. to Hosp.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	1	2	1	4	1	—	—	9	5	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	3	19	13	32	27	—	1	—	95	—	—
Measles	...	...	7	51	63	132	16	6	6	—	281	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	18	1	23
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS IN DISTRICT

Number of cases on Register at 1/1/51 ...

Number of cases on Register at 31/12/51 ...

Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
26	8	11	5
30	12	14	3

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul.		Non.-Pul.		Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1								
1-5				1				
5-10								
10-15				1				
15-20			1	1				
20-25			1					
25-35	1							
35-45			1					
45-55						1		
55-65	4					1		
65 and upwards	1							
Age unknown								
TOTAL	6	3	3			2		

HOUSING

Total houses in district	...	...	...	...	...	4684
Accommodation on ex-W.D. camp sites	...	...	...	...	...	17
Total Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	695
Council houses built post-war	...	...	...	...	...	336
Under construction (31/12/51)	...	...	...	...	...	22
No. of families on housing list	...	...	...	...	...	580*

*A number of applications have been duplicated where applicants acquire to be considered for more than one parish.

In spite of the present housing difficulties action has been taken in a few cases under the Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 12, and the tenants have been re-housed in the locality. As the conditions which prevail at many of the sub-standard properties are becoming more acute each year, and owners find it difficult to attend to urgent repairs, owing to the low rents, an amendment to the Rent Restrictions Acts is now long overdue.

Twenty-four houses have been found to be legally overcrowded and, as the legal standard is very low, the overcrowding would be much worse should a satisfactory bedroom standard be taken into consideration. Ten families have been re-housed in Council houses from overcrowded premises.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

Notifiable infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	25
Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	70
Housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	92
Subsequent visits regarding housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	270
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	59
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	15
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	28
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Housing investigations	...	...	...	...	...	105
Provision of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	634
Sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	31
Sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	297
Drainage matters	...	...	...	...	...	396
Well water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	452
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	...	11
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	9
Tips	...	...	...	...	...	58
Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	13
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	41
Temporary structures	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	27

SAMPLING

Well water supplies (bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	...	41
Satisfactory samples	...	...	...	...	...	9
Doubtful	...	...	...	...	...	13
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	19
						—
						41
Ice-cream (bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	...	14

The results of ice-cream samples are tabulated as follows:—

Provisional Grade				
1	2	3	4	Total
9	5	Nil	Nil	14

NOTICES AND CORRESPONDENCE

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 75—Provision of dustbins	...	...	23
” ” ” ” ” 93—Statutory notices	...	...	4
” ” ” ” ” 39—Drainage	...	...	2
” ” ” ” ” 24—Public sewers	...	...	2
” ” ” ” ” 45—Defective closet accommodation	...	...	1
” ” ” ” ” 44—Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	1
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 11—Demolition orders for insanitary houses	...	...	4
” ” ” ” ” 11—Undertaking accepted	...	...	1
” ” ” ” ” 12—Closing orders for part of buildings	...	...	2
Number of informal notices and letters	...	...	1269

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, ETC.

Number abated on service of Statutory Notice	...	...	...	34
” of Statutory Notices outstanding	...	...	...	6
” abatement on service of informal notice	...	...	...	534

LICENSED PREMISES

The 57 licensed premises in the district, including five clubs, have been inspected. The owners have been notified regarding the carrying out of works which are regarded to be essential from a hygienic point of view, and due regard has been given to the Government restrictions on the licensing of works for places of recreation, which includes public-houses. In some cases the sanitary accommodation is to be improved. In a large number of houses the inadequate facilities for the proper washing of glasses is rather alarming, and emphasis has been placed on the provision of sinks with drainage and hot and cold water behind all bars. The question of not only washing but the sterilisation of glasses has been stressed to all licensees. The survey of the houses revealed that only 30 of the premises kept a stock of suitable sterilising agents and, in some cases, owing to demonstrations from sales representatives, articles are being used which are no more than cleansing agents. As it is regarded to be unwise for the officer of a local authority to recommend a particular detergent steriliser, a list of approved products, as issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Food for use in the dairy industry, would be of great assistance when dealing with all types of catering establishments.

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	1183	726	5312	689
Number inspected ...	—	1183	726	5312	689
All diseases except tuberculosis: Whole carcases condemned	—	28	2	18	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	2.53%	—	.27%	.33%	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned ...		19	7	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	1.69%	—	.85%	—	.14%

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950

SECTION 8

TUBERCULOUS MILK INVESTIGATIONS—ROUTINE MILK SAMPLES FOR BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised milk	3	Nil
“Tuberculin Tested” (Pasteurised) milk	2	Nil
“Tuberculin Tested” milk	2	Nil
“Accredited” and non-graded milk	41	1

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS OF TUBERCLE-INFECTED MILK SUPPLIES DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Cases found on routine sampling in the County	Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities
No. of investigations	1	2
No. of cows examined	7	21
No. of milk samples for diagnostic purposes	3	9
No. of cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order	—	—
No. of cows removed from herds during investigations which may have been infected	2	—

RODENT CONTROL

One rodent operative, who is supplied with a small van, is engaged whole time in the eradication of rats and mice and in general survey of the district. The treatment of properties and sewers is carried out in accordance with the methods suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Private dwellings are treated free of charge, and the occupiers of business premises are charged on a time and material basis. The following is an abstract from the annual report submitted by this authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business
Number of properties inspected disregarding further inspections	5	213	21	19
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority disregarding further treatments	5	213	—	19

The number of agricultural properties inspected is not altogether satisfactory, as, during the year, time would only permit 21 inspections.

Should more visits have been made the treatment and "killing" service at other properties would have had to be left untreated. When agricultural properties are found to be infested with rats, the County Agricultural Executive Committee is informed in the first place.

WATER SUPPLIES

In the 1950 Annual Report I stated that the greater part of Alcester Rural District was provided with a piped supply of water, about 90 per cent. of the population being served.

Parish	Alcester W.W.Co.	East Worcs. W.W.Co.	Bidford Scheme	Stratford R.D.C. Scheme	Not served as at 3st December, 1951
Alcester	...	2500	—	—	—
Arrow	...	300	—	—	—
Aston Cantlow	—	—	—	—	400
Bidford	...	—	2000	—	—
Coughton	...	—	215	—	—
Exhall	...	—	135	40	—
Gt. Alne	...	350	—	—	40 (Little Alne)
Haselor	...	—	—	—	230
Kinwarton	...	45	—	—	—
Morton Bagot	—	75	—	—	—
Oldberrow	...	—	—	—	75
Oversley	...	300	—	—	100
Salford Priors	—	—	900	—	—
Sambourne	...	—	650	—	100 Sambourne and Middletown
Spensel	...	—	50	—	—
Studley	...	—	4000	—	—
Weethley	...	—	—	—	25
Wixford	...	—	142	—	—
Wilmcote	...	—	—	600	—
	3495	4990	3177	640	970

The three main sources of water are:

- (a) East Worcestershire Water Company's supply from the Bunter Sandstone, which provides a very potable supply, and serves the northern areas; this Council being responsible for the distribution of the water.
- (b) The late Alcester Waterworks Company's supply (now owned by the Council) is derived from gravel deposits and from a marl fissure.

The Alcester water is excessively hard for a potable supply, with rather more than 100 parts per 100,000 total hardness, or seventy degrees (Clark's).

The Alcester and Great Alne areas are within the limits of this scheme's supply.

- (c) The Dunnington supply for the parishes of Bidford and Salford Priors was brought into use by the Council after the 1933-34 drought, and uses water from superficial gravel deposits between Dunnington and Broom. The water is moderately hard.

This supply has been augmented recently, consequent upon an increase in supply area and a need to guard against summer shortages.

A small quantity of water is taken in bulk from Stratford R.D.C. supply, in order to service the village of Wilmcote.

The water is from boreholes to the east of Stratford-upon-Avon, sunk into the Keuper sandstone.

PURITY OF EXISTING SUPPLIES

All existing main supplies reach a satisfactory standard of purity. The Council is responsible for the chlorination of the public water supplies derived from sources within the area, and samples are taken both for chemical and bacteriological examination.

PLUMBO SOLVENCY

There is little risk of lead intake from the water supplied in this area.

COMPREHENSIVE WATER SCHEME

In order to improve the quality and quantity of existing water supplies and to extend the distribution area; also to meet agricultural needs, the Council embarked upon a water scheme, to cost approximately £140,000, work commencing on 1st January, 1951.

Greater use will be made of the East Worcestershire Company's supply, and the new aqueduct from the River Severn to Coventry will provide an additional source of potable water at a given point or points within the area.

At the beginning of 1951 work on this scheme had only just commenced. By the end of 1951 most of the mains in the Studley area had been laid. By 30th June, 1952, nearly 20 miles of main had been laid. It is estimated that by the end of 1952 the main laying (total of 30 miles) will be virtually completed.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Although the townships, villages and hamlets within the district possess drainage systems, purification to a modern standard is carried out in the two largest areas only, namely Alcester and Studley. In the three townships of Alcester, Studley and Bidford-on-Avon the main shortcomings in the sewerage arrangements, apart from inadequate sewers in places, are: (a) Alcester, inadequate falls with relatively poor self-cleansing; (b) Studley, the restricted area served; (c) Bidford, lack of treatment.

COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Council has received from its Consulting Engineers a scheme for the sewerage—and treatment of sewage from—the majority of the premises in the district. The cost of the work would be much greater than that of the Comprehensive Water Scheme.

Ministry approval to the sewerage scheme is being sought, and negotiations are taking place with the District Valuer for the land required.

DRAINAGE OF HOUSING SITES

Where the Ministry of Health have approved, connection of drainage to existing sewers has taken place, to avoid nuisance from small—and not always well sited—appendix K sewage works.

At Aston Cantlow, Broom, Marlcliff, Coughton and Sambourne housing sites small purification works have been provided.

NEW DISPOSAL WORKS

Some small extensions to sewers are envisaged in early course, and it is hoped to improve sewage treatment in certain villages where it may be some time before a link-up is effected with the proposed mains of the comprehensive scheme.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING

A modern vehicle, staffed by four men, is engaged full-time on the collection of night soil, free of charge, from nearly 1,000 properties in the district.

A cesspool-emptying vehicle, with two men, is on call for the emptying of cesspools at a charge of 25/- per load of up to 800 gallons.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS for the provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occu- piers prosecu- ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	5	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	70	23	14	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	83	28	16	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:—	...	...	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	2	5	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	1	—	1	—
TOTAL	10	14	—	4	—

THE RURAL DISTRICT of SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

H. C. COOPER, M.R.san.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector

D. P. CARPENTER, A.R.san.I., M.S.I.A.

Population (estimated)	...	...	...	8,110
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£40,294
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£159 17s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION **8,110**

LIVE BIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	71	60	131
Illegitimate	...	4	4	8

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.1 (15.5).

STILLBIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.25 (0.36).

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
	67	59	126

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 15.5 (12.5).

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Figures in parentheses are corresponding figures for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH

					M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	0
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lungs, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, other organs	...	...	...	...	4	5
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	6	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	11	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	13	21
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	10	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach, Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	0
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	0
Nephritis, Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	...	...	...	...	4	0
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Defined and ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	0	1
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
Homicide, Operations of War	...	...	...	...	0	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS	...	...	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 and over	Age unkn.	TOTAL	Ad. to Hosp.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	7	16	17	12	2	—	—	—	54	—	—
Measles	...	...	4	24	31	77	4	1	2	—	143	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	4	4	4	2	2	—	18	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS IN DISTRICT

	Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of cases on Register at 1/1/51	11	7	7	4
Number of cases on Register at 31/12/51	17	8	8	5

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul.		Non.-Pul.		Pul.		Non.-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1								
1-5			1					
5-10								
10-15	1							
15-20								
20-25	1		1	1				
25-35	2	1						
35-45								
45-55								
55-65	1							
65 and upwards								
Age unknown								
TOTAL	5	1	2	1				

HOUSING

Total number of dwellings (including farms, etc.) ...	...	2755
Number of Council houses at 31/12/51 ...	...	340
Built since war ...	...	110
In course of erection at 31/12/51 ...	...	56

NOTICES SERVED

<i>Public Health Act, 1936</i>	<i>Housing Act, 1936</i>
Statutory 10	
Informal 42	Statutory Sec. 11 ... 3

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITION

The general condition of property in the area has been little improved during the year. The general decay and dilapidation of houses progresses with the passing of the years, but for the stone-built type of property the pace is somewhat slow. Owners are being encouraged to maintain and, where possible, improve the condition of property, but difficulty is experienced owing to the low rentals obtained and the control of housing rents under the Rent Acts. In several cases properties have been improved by owners for their own occupation and, in a few cases, improvements have been carried out for the benefit of tenants.

The Council has proceeded with all possible speed to erect new Council houses, and has been limited only by reason of the supply of building material and labour. Private building has also been encouraged. The Council has paid due regard, when letting new Council houses, to the condition in which applicants were living, and to the state of overcrowding.

FOOD INSPECTION

The slaughter of food animals is carried out at the central abattoir in Stratford-upon-Avon, under the control of the Ministry of Food. The meat is also inspected from time to time in the retailers' shops.

Regular inspections of other foodstuffs are carried out, and a number of tins of various foods have been condemned, including several 14lb. tins of cooked hams, which were found to be unsound, due to insufficient curing or defective canning. The regularity of this occurrence gives rise to serious conjecture as to the methods, etc., employed by the various foreign firms importing the article into this country.

Seven stones of wet fish have also been condemned and destroyed.

ICE-CREAM

The majority of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream in the area sell only ice-cream in pre-packed containers, with the consequent advantage that there is small risk from contamination by unclean handling or utensils.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, two by the cold mix process and one by heat treatment. The latter process is undertaken in full view of the public behind glass, and the premises are entirely satisfactory. Indicating and recording thermometers are installed.

BAKEHOUSE, CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS, ETC.

Considerable improvement has been made during the year in the condition of inns, licensed premises, catering establishments and bakehouses. The special drive to secure improvements in the cleansing facilities, water supply and sanitary accommodation at inns, etc., met with the co-operation of the Brewery Companies, and the improvements are almost complete. Unfortunately, in several cases, certain of the works could not be executed owing to licensing difficulties.

The following table shows the present position:

No. of inns	...	...	...	...	...	31
No. now satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	20
No. where work is ordered or in progress	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. where work is agreed	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. where work is not yet agreed	...	...	...	...	...	4

Catering establishments have also received attention, and considerable improvements have been made.

Some difficulties are being experienced with certain bakehouses owing to lack of adequate water supplies, antiquated equipment and buildings. Pressure is being brought to bear on the occupiers of these bakehouses, and it is quite likely that they will be closed in the near future.

One notice in respect of a contravention of the Food Bye-laws was served.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950

SECTION 8

TUBERCULOUS MILK INVESTIGATIONS—ROUTINE MILK SAMPLES FOR BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised milk	—	—
“Tuberculin Tested” (Pasteurised) milk	—	—
“Tuberculin Tested” milk	7	—
“Accredited” and non-graded milk	80	—

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OF TUBERCLE-INFECTED MILK SUPPLIES DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Cases found on routine sampling	Cases reported by neighbouring in the County	County Authorities
No. of investigations	...	—	1
No. of cows examined	...	—	11
No. of milk samples for diagnostic purposes	...	—	3
No. of cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order	...	—	1
No. of cows removed from herds during investigations which may have been infected	...	—	—

WATER SUPPLIES

GENERAL

The area is dependent upon water supplies issuing from the small limestone cappings on the surrounding hills, and such superficial deposits as may occur in the Lias clay. These areas are very small, and the flow of water from the springs is equally small and varies considerably with the season. The main piped supply is taken from springs at Ebrington, outside the area, and used to serve the town of Shipston-on-Stour and three small villages adjoining. A minimum available yield of 40,000 gallons per day issues from the spring, and is fully used. At dry periods, however, the supply is insufficient to maintain an adequate supply. The villages of Halford, Oxhill, Whatcote and Idlicote take water from a spring at Compton, where a flow of 12,000 gallons per day can be obtained. This is barely

sufficient to provide a standpipe supply, and shortage is continually occurring. The remaining villages obtain water from small springs yielding from 1,000 to 5,000 gallons per day and from wells. These sources are entirely inadequate, and there is considerable hardship caused by lack of sufficient water. Insanitary conditions exist on this account, and cannot be remedied until better supplies are obtained.

The general water supply for the area gives rise to grave concern as regards quality and quantity. The supplies available are so small and, in some cases, of doubtful character, that there is grave danger to the general health of the public. The wells in the parish of Tredington are known to yield water of doubtful quality; at Pillerton Priors and Pillerton Hersey water is so short that for several months of the year only a minimum quantity of water is available and, in some cases, it has to be carried for considerable distances. At Little Wolford, Ascott, Stourton, Tidmington and Whichford no houses can be built owing to lack of water, and in most of the other villages similar conditions exist. As the yield of the springs decreases the Council are obliged, in certain cases, to cart water to the villages and ration it out in quantities of approximately one gallon of water per person per day. This is most unsatisfactory, and it is vital to the health and sanitary condition of the people that a full supply of wholesome water is provided in the immediate future. The Council are unable to proceed to enforce the conditions imposed in the Water Act owing to lack of water available to properties, and the fact that no alternative local supplies can be obtained.

QUALITY

The quality of water in the area varies with the season. Whilst the main springs prove to yield water of a satisfactory degree of purity, the quality of the water in the smaller springs and from the wells is known to be doubtful, especially when the water levels are low in the dry periods.

ANALYSIS OF WATER (PIPED SUPPLIES)

The following analyses of public water supplies have been made, and the results are set out hereunder:

		No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Fair	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	...	3	1	2	—

ANALYSIS OF PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS

The following are the results in respect of private samples:

		No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Fair	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	...	27	6	11	10

PLUMBO SOLVENCY

The water supplies in the area are not considered to be plumbo solvent.

ACTION IN RESPECT OF CONTAMINATION

The Council has prepared a comprehensive water scheme for the full supply of water to the whole area both for domestic and agricultural needs. This scheme has now been before the Ministry for a number of years, and progresses very slowly. In the interest of public health and the clean production of milk and other foods, it is essential that the scheme be installed in the immediate future.

The needs of new houses cannot be met in full owing to the lack of supplies of sufficient wholesome water.

SUPPLIED WITH WATER FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

Parish	In village		Laid on		Standpipe		Rem'ks
	Houses	Popu- lation	Houses	Popu- lation	Houses	Popu- lation	
Barcheston...Bareheston	10	30	2	8	3	12	—
...Willington	26	98	18	68	6	22	—
Barton-on-the-Heath ...	35	121	1	5	15	57	—
Brailes...Brailes	254	762	67	201	150	450	—
...Winderton	25	75	—	—	3	10	Private
Burnington ...	37	123	5	18	16	61	—
Butlers Marston	70	190	11	28	49	132	—
Cherington ...	70	220	4	12	10	30	—
Compton Wynyates	8	19	—	—	—	—	Private
Great Wolford	42	126	22	64	18	50	Private
Halford	93	261	506	145	34	105	—
Honington	55	202	31	120	11	44	—
Idlicote	28	80	15	31	5	15	—
Ilmington ...	201	613	66	198	78	234	Private
Little Compton	99	294	—	20	40	120	—
Little Wolford ...	41	153	—	—	—	—	Private
Long Compton	174	536	83	258	48	144	—
Oxhill ...	69	167	45	110	10	25	—
Pillerton Hersey	35	90	—	—	—	—	Private
Pillerton Priors	43	113	—	—	—	—	Private
Shipston-on-Stour	466	1474	372	1120	83	250	—
Stretton-on-Fosse	108	269	18	47	39	97	—
Stourton	38	119	—	—	—	—	Private
Sutton-under-Brailes	41	109	—	—	15	45	—
Tidmington ...	13	58	—	—	—	—	Private
Tredington...Armscote	51	134	—	—	—	—	Private
...Blackwell	50	138	—	—	—	—	Private
...Darlingscote	41	121	—	—	—	—	Private
...Newbold	96	262	—	—	22	56	—
...Tredington	77	216	8	24	50	147	Private
Tysoe ...	235	727	111	343	90	290	—
Whatcote	28	81	17	48	7	20	—
Whichford...Whichford	81	220	10	25	20	50	—
...Ascott ...	15	52	8	28	4	17	—

SEWERAGE GENERAL

The township of Shipston-on-Stour and the village of Honington are fully seweraged and have sewage disposal works. In the remaining villages some parts have sewers and small disposal systems, the others are served by village drains and culverts to ditches and irrigation systems.

The undermentioned works have been carried out during the year in addition to small systems serving Council house sites.

ARMSCOTE

The old septic tank system serving part of the village of Armseote has been bypassed and the sewer extended to a more remote site, where settlement tanks have been constructed.

TREDINGTON

A small system has been constructed at Tredington to serve the parts of the village west of the main road.

The increase in the number of small systems in various villages, and the need for constant attention, is creating a problem, and it may soon be necessary to set aside transport and portable pumping machinery in order to keep the systems in satisfactory working condition.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occu- piers prosecu- ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	27	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	43	82	—	—
TOTAL	95	119	1	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found		
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	1
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:—	...	...	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	1

